

and has been proven to reduce crime, especially violent crime. A 2005 study by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) concluded that the C.O.P.S. program contributed to a 1.3 percent decline in the overall crime rate and a 2.5 percent reduction in the violent crime rate in 8 years.

But like a patient that stops taking the medication once it starts working, the Bush administration has been taking a step back in law enforcement and homeland security in its effort to gut the program. We must not rest on our laurels and declare, "Mission Accomplished." The President has declared we live in an age of terrorism, and expanding the police force and providing our local and state governments with resources to combat crime and terrorism should remain a priority. But for years, with the backing of the Republican-led Congress, the President has sought to cut or eliminate funding for the program.

In Fiscal Year 2008, the Bush administration is proposing to cut the C.O.P.S. program by over 94 percent compared to 2007. Congress appropriated \$542 million for the program in FY07, and the President is proposing only \$32 million for FY08. The yearly program funding once peaked at \$1.4 billion dollars per year under the Clinton administration. It has resulted in the hiring of nearly 120,000 police officers and has prevented over 200,000 crimes since its inception. In contrast, the Bush administration's proposal offers zero funding for community based prosecutors, zero funding for crime fighting technologies, and only \$4 million for policing and public safety grants.

Instead of providing funding for more cops on the beat, the President is handing the C.O.P.S. program a bill for funds unspent in previous years. The \$32 million budget request, minus the \$87 million the Administration is hoping to get back from the C.O.P.S. program, results in negative funding for community policing. Proponents of weakening the program will attempt to explain that the C.O.P.S. program is duplicative, but a review of the Bush administration's FY08 budget request reveals that the administration also is reducing funding for those other programs as well. It makes no sense to eviscerate the successful C.O.P.S. program or roll it into a block grant, particularly when Department of Justice estimates are showing a rise in crime.

As it seeks to eliminate the C.O.P.S. program, the Bush administration is pursuing a misguided goal. I commend Congressman WEINER (D-NY) for bringing this bill forward today, I strongly support the C.O.P.S. program, and I urge adoption of the legislation.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM THOMAS BENNETT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend, Bill Bennett, who died last week at 84 years young.

I met Bill and his wife, Marty, when I decided to run for Congress more than 20 years ago. We shared a love of politics, a dedication to our communities and country, and a love and dedication to our families.

Born in West Virginia, Bill Bennett came to California while serving in the U.S. Navy. Like

many who venture to the Golden State, he fell in love and stayed. After being discharged from the Navy, Bill joined the Los Angeles City Fire Department. It would prove to be one of his long-term commitments. He retired from the Department 31 years later as Assistant Chief, in 1980.

Another of his long-term commitments was to Marty. They married in 1951 and partnered in life for the next 56 years.

In 1965, Bill and Marty moved with their children to Thousand Oaks, which I have represented for the better part of my congressional career. They became involved in their church, Emmanuel Presbyterian, and many other aspects of their community. Bill served on the board of the former Timber School District, Community Leaders Club, Republican Central Committee, Ventura County Grand Jury, Ventura County Planning Committee, Neighborhood Watch, and many other community organizations, for which he was duly recognized. He also became a supporter and friend to me.

At the same time Bill was making his community a better place, he dedicated himself to being a loving father and husband. In addition to Marty, Bill leaves behind daughter, Sue and her husband, Kim Force; daughter, Nancy and her husband, Jim Berg; daughter, Bonnie; and son Tom and his wife, Jane. Bill and Marty also have seven grandchildren, Michael, Christopher, Joshua, Brian, Janelle, Jilee and Justine; and two great-grandchildren, Hannah and Emily.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering William Thomas Bennett as a good friend, a loving family man, and a lover of life, whose talents helped to make our community stronger. In addition, I know they join me in extending our condolences to Marty and their family and to all who called Bill a friend.

Godspeed, Bill.

COPS IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the COPS Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1700). This critical piece of legislation is needed to revitalize the highly successful COPS program and will allow communities in Rhode Island and across the country to hire additional police officers and improve security.

This important initiative was created in 1994 under the Clinton Administration to help local law enforcement agencies hire thousands of additional police officers nationwide. COPS funding has helped police agencies in Rhode Island to hire 385 police officers, and today's measure will allow us to hire an additional 185 officers.

The COPS program takes an innovative approach to aiding local law enforcement agencies through its commitment to community-oriented policing and has proven successful in reducing crime. Unfortunately, in the past few years the Bush Administration and Republican-led Congress have continued to slash funding for this vital program, and the President's FY 2008 budget proposal would elimi-

nate it altogether. I am proud to support a measure that halts this trend and reinstates funding for this vital program.

The COPS Reauthorization Act will establish the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services as a distinct entity within the U.S. Department of Justice and reauthorize hiring programs for officers to engage in community policing, serve as School Resource Officers, and engage in counterterrorism duties. This bill will also provide additional funding for police agencies to purchase lap top computers for patrol cars, crime mapping software, and interoperable communications equipment. Finally, reauthorizing the COPS program will increase funding for critical community prosecuting programs.

Enhancing and fully funding COPS programs will give our local law enforcement agencies the tools they need to fight crime and keep our communities safe. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

JAMES A. LEACH FEDERAL BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1505 to designate the Federal building located at 131 East 4th Street in Davenport, Iowa, as the "James A. Leach Federal Building."

James Leach was born in Davenport, Iowa in 1942. Representing Iowa, he served in the House of Representatives for 30 years. Mr. Leach is a man of great honor, serving his state and country nobly, admirably and tirelessly. Mr. Leach was a career public servant, chairing several Committees during his time in Congress.

During his time in Congress, Mr. Leach respected individual rights, choices and freedoms and voted to protect them. In the 109th Congress, I had the good fortune of working with him on the International Relations Committee where he spoke often for dignity of mankind and human rights. Jim was a caring and compassionate hands on person who led a congressional delegation to western Indonesia after the December 26th, 2004 tsunami where he witnessed one of the most traumatic natural disasters in the past several centuries. His work was instrumental in securing disaster relief funds for this devastated area.

Mr. Leach holds eight honorary degrees, has received decorations from two foreign governments, and is the recipient of the Wayne Morse Integrity in Politics Award, the Woodrow Wilson Award from Johns Hopkins University, the Adlai Stevenson Award from the United Nations Association, and the Edger Wayburn Award from the Sierra Club. In 2000, the Independent Bankers Association honored James Leach by creating "The James A. Leach Leadership Award", named for the Iowa Congressman. Mr. Leach served as chairman of the House Banking Committee from 1995 to 2001. The James A. Leach Leadership Award honors bankers for outstanding service to the banking industry. These examples exemplify his respect as a person and public servant.

Madam Speaker, today I have the privilege in joining my colleagues in honoring this distinguished gentleman and good friend by designating the U.S. courthouse located on 131 East 4th Street in Davenport, Iowa, as the "James A. Leach United States Courthouse".

A TRIBUTE TO DIXON OSBURN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to C. Dixon Osburn, who, as co-founder and Executive Director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), led the national movement to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" for the past fourteen years. Under his leadership, SLDN has moved our nation many miles closer to its goal of freedom to serve in our Nation's Armed Forces without regard to sexual orientation.

It has been my honor to work with Dixon for many years to improve the lives of lesbian, gay and bisexual service members. Our work is not done, but one day "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" will take its place among the relics of history and be replaced by a fairer, better policy that truly honors the patriotism of all Americans. And we will remember Dixon and the foundation he built with Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

I wish Dixon all the best in his future endeavors, and I thank him for his significant contribution to improving our Nation's Armed Forces.

HONORING ACACIA MASONIC LODGE #163

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to congratulate the Acacia Masonic Lodge of Martin County, Florida on their 100th anniversary and commend them for all the good work they do throughout the community.

This very special anniversary in Florida's 16th District makes the Acacia Masonic Lodge, #163 of Free and Accepted Masons, the oldest organization in Martin County. Knowing what good work they do in the area, I wanted to honor them by highlighting some of their achievements.

Graduating seniors from all of Martin County's high schools, sick children in local hospitals and senior citizens residing in local residential homes are just a few of the beneficiaries of the Acacia Masons' charity. Over the years, they have donated over \$100,000 to worthy causes throughout Martin County.

Not only have the Acacia Masons given financial support to Martin County, they have also been a visible bastion of good work in our community. Since 1964, the Acacia Masons have laid the cornerstone of every Martin County public school, symbolizing the value they place on education for all the children in the area.

The Masons' motto is, "Take a good man and make him a better man." Having met

many of them personally, I can confirm that the Free Masons in Martin County are certainly practicing what they preach; and judging by the strength of their organization, I am certain they will still be supporting the Martin County community a hundred years from now.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending the Acacia Masonic Lodge for a century of unwavering commitment and support of Martin County and all who reside there.

HONORING BURGESS (B.J.) ETZEL

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a life-long Texan, a personal friend, and a great leader in our community. Burgess Etzel, or B.J. as most of us know him, was born in Roundtop, Texas. After finishing high school there, he went on to attend Blinn College, and then to my alma mater, the University of Houston.

After graduation, B.J. began his work in the communications industry. Hired as a cable splicing helper in 1957 in what was then the Plant Department in Houston, he continued this work until 1969. At that time he was transferred to Network Operations as a Communications Technician.

In 1987, after serving as Job, Chief, and District Stewards for over two decades, B.J. was elected President of the Communications Workers of America Local 6222. In this position, he represented over 7,000 bargaining unit employees working for SWB Telephone, SWB Yellow Pages, SWB Wireless, AT&T, Lucent Technologies, and printing sector in metro Houston and surrounding areas in the Southeast Texas region.

Despite his busy schedule as President of the CWA Local 6222, B.J. also found time to serve on the board of trustees of the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast, and raise four children with his wife Frances.

B.J. has served as a leader in all phases of local organizing drives, and all legislative and community service work. I would like to thank B.J. for his service to the CWA and its members, and congratulate him for having the flag pole dedicated to him on May 19, 2007.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the over 3 million women living with breast cancer, in strong support of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. Breast cancer remains the leading cause of death among women between the ages of 40 and 55. My sister-in-law was among them, having died at the age of only 41. While important advances have been made, we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it.

Scientific evidence as to the role the environment plays in the development of breast

cancer is scarce. There is a clear need for research on the relationship between environmental factors and breast cancer. The Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act would facilitate such research by establishing a national strategy to study the link between the environment and breast cancer by creating multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary centers that study the environmental factors that contribute to the disease.

Although there are currently 221 cosponsors, this legislation has yet to have a hearing in committee. If we are going to make a serious commitment to preventing and curing breast cancer we must pass this legislation so that one day we can announce that our mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends are free of this disease.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill and pass the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF SERGEANT TIMOTHY PADGETT, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor SGT Timothy Padgett, United States Army. Sergeant Padgett, known as Timmy, gave his life in defense of our Nation while serving in Tarin Kwot, Afghanistan, on May 8, 2007. Sergeant Padgett was serving as a Green Beret with the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group based in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Timmy was raised in DeFuniak Springs, Florida, and graduated from Walton High School in 1997. A former firefighter paramedic with the South Walton Fire District, our local paper, the Northwest Florida Daily News, reported "A lot of firefighters knew him well, and the close-knit group is taking the news of his death real hard, said Deputy Fire Chief Sean Hughes. 'He was a great guy,' Hughes said. Most people knew Padgett by his big smile, which he almost always wore. His fellow firefighters often called him 'smiling Tim,' Hughes said."

Timmy's mother, Glenda Penton, resides in DeFuniak Springs and has been remarkably steady since her son's passing. I spoke with Glenda two days after the horrible news and she was gracious and proud of her son. I was so impressed and inspired by her. I don't know if I could have been the same way so soon after learning of the loss of a loved one.

I am always reminded of the greatness of our country due to the resiliency of people like Glenda Penton and the bravery of people like her son Timmy. We have an all volunteer military and continue to ask our sons and daughters to travel to faraway lands to fight for our freedom and these sons and daughters continue to answer the call.

The people of DeFuniak Springs have reason to be proud of Sergeant Padgett, and I am humbled to be able to represent those people, as well as the memory of Sergeant Padgett, for am I equally proud. Vicki and I will keep Timmy's entire family, especially his 8 year-old daughter, Summer Lynn, in our